Increase in number of pilgrims for Kailash-Mansarovar

†*247. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have sent any proposal to Chinese Government to increase the number of pilgrims visiting Kailash-Mansarovar;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of Chinese Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (c) In August, 2002, it was agreed with the Chinese side to increase the maximum number of pilgrims going to Kailash-Mansarovar every year through the existing route *via* Lipulekh Pass from 560 to 704. Due to the attitude, weather conditions and the limitation of infrastructure facilities on the Chinese side, it is difficult at present to further increase the number of pilgrims going through this route. Government have, however, proposed to the Chinese side on several occasions in recent years additional routes to Kailash-Mansarovar. During his visit to China in June, 2003, Prime Minister Shri A.B. Vajpayee also raised the issue of additional routes during his meeting with the Chinese Premier. The Chinese Premier responded that the Chinese side would consider the request according to the conditions in Tibet.

Children covered under the NCLP

*248. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of children covered under the National Child Labour Project since its inception, State-wise;

(b) budget allocated for eliminating the child labour under NCLP, State-wise; and

(c) what action plan does the Ministry have to eliminate child labour by the year 2007?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) The total number of children covered under National Child Labour Projects Scheme since inception are 4.16 lakh. A Table showing the number of children covered under NCLP, State-wise since inception is at Statement-I (*See* below).

(b) A Table showing State-wise yearly budget allocation for the existing National Child Labour Projects is at Statement-II (*See* below).

(c) The Tenth Plan strategy proposes to eliminate child labour in hazardous sector through the National Child Labour Projects Scheme. Children between the ages of 5-8 would be put into primary schools under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) and children between the ages of 9-14 would be put into primary schools after attending the special schools run under the NCLPs.

Statement-I

Current coverage under National Child Labour Project

Sl. No.	Name of the State	No. of children covered under NCLP since its inception
1.	Andhra Pradesh	74,450
2.	Bihar	14,000
3.	Chhattisgarh	13,400
4.	Jharkhand	18,400
5.	Karnataka	25,650
6.	Madhya Pradesh	6,400
7.	Maharashtra	9,650
8.	Orissa	85,600
9.	Rajasthan	20,550
10.	Tamil Nadu	56,250
11.	Uttar Pradesh	36,600
12.	West Bengal	44,750
13.	Punjab	10,700
	TOTAL:	4,16,400

Statement-II

State-wise yearly budget allocation for the existing NCLPs

(Rs. in crores)

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Budget for 2003-2004
1.	Andhra Pradesh	25.96
2.	Bihar	2.19
3.	Chhattisgarh	2.62
4.	Jharkhand	3.01
5.	Karnataka	3.67
6.	Madhya Pradesh	2.19
7.	Maharashtra	1.77
8.	Orissa	15.99
9.	Rajasthan	4.21
10.	Tamil Nadu	10.53
11.	Uttar Pradesh	13.21
12.	West Bengal	7.67
13.	Punjab	2.75
	TOTAL:	95.68

National Highways in Jharkhand

*249. SHRI R. K. ANAND: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the condition of National Highways is very bad in Jharkhand;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and what steps have been taken/ proposed to be taken to improve their condition; and

(c) by when the condition of National Highways would be improved?

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T. R. BAALU): (a) and (b) The National Highways in Jharkhand are maintained in traffic-worthy conditions within the available resources. However, around 856 kms., of State roads were declared as National Highways during Ninth and tenth Plan period and at the time of their